THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Culture proposes to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission, as the present legal and institutional framework is not adequate to address the documentation, inventorisation and conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline. The commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

The functions of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include:

tender advice to the Government on heritage matters.

frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

can study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.

suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

(c) Under the provision of section 4 of Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958, the monuments/sites of historical, architectural, archaeological or artistic importance and which have been in existence for not less than 100 years are considered for protection as monuments of national importance.

(d) and (e) The centrally protected monuments/sites including those of Buddhist era in the State of Andhra Pradesh are well maintained and are in good state of preservation. The Archaeological Survey of India undertakes the conservation, maintenance, structural repairs and environmental development of these protected monuments under their Annual Conservation Programme.

Celebration of 150th anniversary of first war of independence

2068. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum in excess of Rs. 150 crore has been allotted for celebrations to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the events of 1857 also known as the first war of Indian Independence;

(b) whether it is also a fact that eminent historians have resigned from the official panel headed by the Prime Minister in protest against the alleged distortion of historical facts in connection with the celebrations;

(c) whether it has been decided to fund the production of a commercial Hindi film to depict the events of 1857 from the present Government's view point; and

(d) whether it is customary for Government to fund commercial Hindi films?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No, Sir. So far only a Rs. 10 crores allocation has been made for the commemorative celebrations.

(b) No Sir. However, some historians nominated on the Committee have expressed their reservations to be on the Committee.

(c) No such decision has been taken.

(d) No, Sir.

Cut down of non-developmental expenditure

†2609. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken any steps to curtail various non-developmental expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated amount of funds that would be saved by the Central Government by stopping the unnecessary expenses, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Instructions are issued to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India from time to time to observe economy in expenditure. Latest instructions include, *inter-alia,* restrictions on the creation of posts, filling up of vacant posts, purchase of vehicles, holding of seminars/conferences, foreign travel etc. Ministries/ Departments have also been instructed to make a 5% cut on non-Plan expenditure excluding interest payment, repayment of debt, defence capital, salaries, pension and the Finance Commission grants to the States so as to release resources for developmental programmes.

(c) It is not feasible to estimate the amount of funds so saved by the Central Government.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.